

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a pigment, comprising:
 - (A) kneading a mixture containing a pigment, a polymer having a salt-forming group, a neutralizing agent for neutralizing the polymer having a salt-forming group, an organic solvent and water, wherein the concentration of solid matter is 50 to 80% by weight;
 - (B) adding water and/or an organic solvent to the resulting kneaded mixture to dilute the mixture; and
 - (C) dispersing the solid matter in the resulting diluted mixture.
2. The process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a pigment according to claim 1, wherein the temperature during kneading is at most 50°C in the step (A).
3. The process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a pigment according to claim 1, wherein the resulting kneaded mixture is subjected to the step (B) after the mixture is kneaded with a kneader and further kneaded with a roll-mill in the step (A).
4. The process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a pigment according to claim 1, wherein the solid matter in the diluted mixture is dispersed with a high-pressure homogenizer in the step (C).
5. A water-based ink comprising the aqueous dispersion of a pigment,

obtained by the process of claim 1.